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do of A. J. Raffles, honesty compels the statement that this additional volume is one too many in a school of literature that cannot possibly elevate the human race, or even interest persons of average good taste. This particular volume lacks the spirit of first treatment of the subject, and Raffles like Sherlock Holmes is very evidently dragging out a miserable and mentally attenuated existence for the money that is in him.

POLE BAKER. A Novel. By Will N. Harben. New York and London : Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1905. \$1.50.

Pole Baker, whom we have already known as an unimportant character in a former novel by Mr. Harben, asserts his rights now and has easily the leading personality in the book bearing his name. The story really centres around a young man who has grown up in, but is not altogether of, this rural North Georgia community, and between him and Pole Baker exists an alliance defensive and occasionally offensive — a connection that furnishes ample opportunity for the exercise of Pole Baker's innate fine feeling and large store of worldly wisdom. Mr. Harben has an unusual insight into the character and life of the mountain class, and his work in this field in his State is peculiarly his own. He is less happy in his treatment of Nelson Floyd and others of the better class of society and it is regrettable that in the same volume the contrast should be obvious between his strong and difficult interpretative work on the mountaineer and his artificial treatment of people in average society.

POETRY

PEACE AND OTHER POEMS. By Arthur Christopher Benson, Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge. New York : John Lane, 1905.

Mr. Benson is not unknown as a poet. He has published several booklets of verse before — "Poems," "Lyrics," "Lord Vyet and Other Poems," and "The Professor and Other Poems." Deep feeling, a pensive thoughtfulness, and experience, are the qualities of his verse. He may write in a minor

key, but possesses beyond doubt the true lyric note. The first stanza of his "Prelude" sounds his most natural feeling:

Once again the faltering string
Trembles to my eager hand;
I would speak the gracious thing
That I grow to understand.

In "Peace," the longest of the present poems, "Peace, divinely bright, unconquerable peace," which gives its name to the booklet, are such lines as "The shadowy hills of hope beyond the golden tide" and "Fades to a gentle tale among the shadowy years." This attitude is pensive, but it is also very graceful. The poems abound in description and Mr. Benson is peculiarly sensitive to effects of color, in a feeling for sunsets, for hill and burn side. The joy in simple things, in seeing these objects, and transforming them by imagination and reflection, leads the poet to a spiritual contentment, which may be said to constitute his philosophy of life.

MUSA VERTICORDIA. By Francis Coutts. New York: John Lane, 1905.

As much cannot be said of Mr. Coutts' little volume. It is a different atmosphere we are called upon to enter—not lyric, but one of satiric verse. The several occasional poems seem least successful. They are clear enough in sentiment, high enough in feeling, the author does not hesitate to express the most piquant views, but the expression seems too often eccentric and not inevitable, and so is not poetic, as verse. Mr. Coutts' genius is personal rather than sheerly poetical, and is best shown in the epigram, in the sparkle of the pointed antithesis, in the adjustment of the unexpected—all qualities which show at their best in his "Spanish Folk Rhymes."

THE CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT. A Book of Poems. By Edwin Arlington Robinson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Mr. Robinson's "Book of Poems," has received a new edition, seemingly due to President Roosevelt's recent discovery of this "new" poet. Most of the contents, here rearranged, was virtually published before in 1896 and 1897, being privately printed by the Riverside Press for the author, who lived in Gardiner,